

July 3, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Whitman Publishing Co.
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

You asked me to report on the fascinating silver Indian arm-band belonging to Harry B. McDaniel, Bettsville, Ohio. I appreciate your kind comments as to my opinion. I have returned the item to the owner as you instructed.

The T. D. hallmark differs from the hallmarks of Timothy Dwight in my silver books in that (a) the letters do not have ceriphhs, (b) there are only four dots instead of a circle of dots, (c) the dots are not evenly spaced. I believe that if photographs were ordered of the hallmarks on well known pieces of Timothy Dwight it can be readily determined whether this hallmark is from the same punch or punches as genuine pieces. This is fundamental in verifying the coins.

There are a number of curious situations to evaluate, each of which points to a fabrication:

1. The texture of the silver of the threepences and the armband is virtually identical and yet the coins and armband were supposed to be made at different times. (Dwight was born in 1645 or later).
2. The three lower links are soldered and there was no solder in the seventeenth century.
3. The end loops on the armband are soldered closed for no reason.
4. The top four holes show no wear from ornaments being hung on them.
5. The threepences are both very round whereas original NE pieces are not.
6. The holes in each threepence is in exactly the same place as on the Yale original.

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7. The two threepences on the armband have a different obverse and reverse die punch than any other NE piece of any denomination. (The original threepence has the same obverse punch as the original sixpence).
8. There is only one reverse die for the sixpence and it would be surprising if there were more than one die made for the threepence which was issued in very small amounts for only a part of a year.
9. The left upright of the N does not connect with the diagonal and this is not found on any NE die.
10. Any Indian armband made after 1660 would probably use Willow or Oak Tree coins for decoration and Timothy Dwight was not working until after that date.
11. I cannot determine the weight accurately. The right link and coin together weigh $27\frac{1}{2}$ grains, the left 29 grains. I figure the links at about 4 grains (length $3\frac{1}{4}$ mm. diameter 1 mm). This would leave the planchets too heavy as they would not exceed 18 grains with the hole solid ($18\frac{1}{2}$ mm diameter, $\frac{1}{2}$ mm thick).
12. The story as to how it was acquired recently indicates the seller has not been accurate.

I am sending you extra copies of this letter so that you may, if you wish, send one to McDaniel.

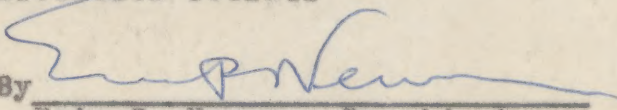
I thoroughly enjoyed working on the item and hope you are satisfied with my thoughts.

Hope you had an enjoyable vacation.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

By


Eric P. Newman, President

EPN
atb



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KANSAS 3737

THE McDANIEL INSURANCE AGENCY

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NUMISMATIC EDITOR

1220 MOUND AVENUE

COIN SUPPLY DIVISION
RACINE, WISCONSIN

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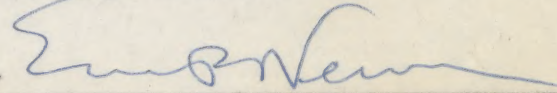
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